

Abstract

In a continuous process for fractionating a C_4 fraction (C_4) by extractive distillation using a selective solvent (LM) in an extractive distillation column (EDK), it is proposed that a dividing wall (TW) is installed in the longitudinal direction in the extractive distillation column (EDK) to form a first region (A), a second region (B) and a lower combined column region (C) and a top stream (C_4H_{10}) comprising the butanes is taken off from the first region (A), a top stream (C_4H_8) comprising the butenes is taken off from the second region (B) and a stream (C_4H_6) comprising the hydrocarbons from the C_4 fraction which are more soluble in the selective solvent (LM) than are the butanes and the butenes is taken off from the lower combined column region (C).

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(Fig. 1)